

IRON ORE LINE DERAILMENT

28 July 2010

The iron ore line will re-open for train traffic at 18:00 tonight. This follows the derailment of a loaded iron ore train (342-wagon RDP train) at 16:00 on Thursday 22nd July 2010 just outside Vredendal.

There were no injuries or fatalities. Of the 342 wagons, 107 wagons derailed. 2 locomotives derailed and were seriously damaged (1 diesel and 1 electrical locomotive). There was also extensive damage to the overhead track equipment, rail track, bridge and rolling stock.

Engineers and repair teams have worked around the clock and all repair work to the bridge, overhead track equipment and railway track that were damaged as a result of the derailment has been completed.

Almost all the iron ore that spilled in the dry river bed below the bridge on which the train partially derailed has been removed. Although the iron ore is a non-toxic metal, to ensure best practice and compliance, representatives from the Department of Environmental Affairs are working in conjunction with Transnet Freight Rail Officials on a rehabilitation programme for the site.

The 861 kilometre- long railway line from the open cast iron ore mines at Sishen in the Northern Cape to the port at Saldanha transported close to 45 million tons of iron ore last financial year (2009/2010) is regarded as an icon in the heavy haul and rail transportation industries, locally and abroad.

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Issued by Transnet Freight Rail, Communications and Media Department

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